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Northern Region News



July 6, 1992

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 6



L to R - Helena National Forest Supervisor Ernie Nunn; Governor Stan Stephens, Helena Mayor Kay McKenna, Cindy Marlenee at ribbon cutting ceremony marking opening of new Helena SO

Helena National Forest Has Reason to Celebrate

by Maggie Pittman, Public Affairs Specialist
Helena National Forest

On May 28, the city of Helena made her feelings known about the Forest Service:

Whereas, the Helena National Forest...surrounds the City of Helena;

Whereas, the Helena National Forest headquarters has and continues to reside in the City of Helena;

Whereas, the employees of the Helena National Forest volunteer community service of great benefit to the City of Helena.

Now, therefore, I, Kay McKenna, Mayor of the city of Helena, Montana, proclaim Thursday, May 28, 1992, as "HELENA NATIONAL FOREST DAY."

The proclamation was issued as part of the dedication of the new Helena National Forest headquarters, located just north of the Helena Regional Airport. Over 650 people, including local and state dignitaries, attended the dedication ceremony and open house. The welcome mat is out! The Helena employees will be happy to give a personal tour to any Region 1 employees who stop by for a visit.

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Regional Office to Stay in Federal Building

by Dave Jolly
Regional Forester

Over the last few years there have been indications and rumors that the U.S. Army might vacate their occupancy of Fort Missoula and dispose of the land and buildings. Since the spring of 1989 the Forest Service has had discussions and studies of the desirability and potential of moving the Regional Office to the Fort Missoula site. After recently evaluating the pros and cons of such a possible move with a team of staff directors, I have made the decision to keep the Regional Office in its present location at the Federal Building.

The U.S. Army has now made the decision to vacate a large portion of the land and structures at Fort Missoula. When that announcement was made public, Missoula County came forward and made it known that they desired to have the Fort Missoula property transferred to County ownership via congressional legislation. We will work with the Army and Missoula County to support such an action with the contingency that land and buildings for the Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office, the Missoula Ranger District, Missoula Technology and Development Center, and the Regional Office Materials Laboratory be transferred to the Forest Service.

At this time, I believe that retaining the Regional Office in the Federal Building is best for the public, for our employees, for Region One, and for the Forest Service.



Regional Office staff in 1913 on the steps of the Federal Building in Missoula where they moved after a fire razed their old offices in the Hammond Block. Regional Forester Ferdinand Silcox is fourth from right. Dog at front unidentified.



Treaty Rights Conference Attracts Large Audience



The Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana is almost totally surrounded by National Forest land. Because of their many common concerns, the Forest Service and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) co-sponsored a conference June 2-4 which focused on treaty rights and new perspectives on traditional values in land management.

The landmark treaty rights conference, the second to be held nationally, took place at the new \$6 million KwaTaqNuk resort developed by CSKT on Flathead Lake in Polson.

There was an impressive roster of speakers. Representing the Washington Office was George Leonard, associate chief of the Forest Service, and Bob Tippeconnic, Forest Service Tribal Coordinator. Members of the Tribal Council and its various departments gave presentations in addition to



Jackie Mathias demonstrating "fancy dancing" at evening activities

Region 1 personnel. Among the 300 attendants were Regional Native American Program managers from Regions 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. Ira Jones, R-1 Native American Program Coordinator, coordinated the workshop.

A key address was given by Dan Decker, tribal legal counselor. Decker reviewed the history of the official relationship between In-

dians and the American government, a relationship which was and continues to be "government to government."

European colonial powers and later the American government recognized Indian property rights, evident in the treaty-making process. The Hellgate Treaty of 1855 defined those lands to be retained by the CSKT as well as access to and right to conduct activities in specific areas on unclaimed or Federal lands (most of which now lie within National Forest boundaries). These rights involve hunting, fishing, gathering, and religious/cultural activities.

An important point made by Decker and other speakers was that lands and rights, as defined by the treaty, were not "given" by whites to the CSKT but were retained by the tribes as a product of negotiation. The end result was the Hellgate Treaty, a legally binding contractual agreement.

Other subjects discussed were management practices by the CSKT of their tribal lands and interaction with the Forest Service and other agencies.

Much was learned about the specifics of treaty rights, about the tribes' approach to land management, of the culture of the CSKT, and of the ways in which we can cooperate for the benefit of the land.

The exploitive phase of land use is over, stated Orville Daniels. Now is the time to explore how best to care for the land and nurture it. The spiritual and cultural values Native Americans bring to their relationship and management of the land, Daniels said, is a lesson from which all can learn.

The general thread running throughout the conference was that there is no more isolation in management of resources. As Ron Russell, Forest Service employee, reminded the audience, "We all live downstream."



Bob Tippeconnic, USFS Tribal Coordinator, addresses audience

Photo: Corky Clairmont

Photo: Corky Clairmont

During the conference, it was announced that Kim Mitchell, wildlife biologist with the Nez Perce National Forest, will assume a position new to Region 1 and the Forest Service. As a result of an Inter-governmental Personnel Act agreement between the Region and the Salish-Kootenai College, Mitchell will be developing a curriculum for the natural resources department incorporating state of the art land management practices. Mitchell will also be involved in devising methods to upgrade the math and science skills of secondary school Native American students on the reservation.



Using his single ski, Jones cuts a tight pattern through a gate during a special disabled ski race on The Big Mountain. An amputee of 22 years, Jones has been active with Disabled Ski Program from its inception.

Spotlight

Dennis Jones

From: Kalispell, by way of Summit County, CO, and Nassau County, NY

Profession: Information Assistant, Supervisors Office, Flathead National Forest.

What Job Really Is: Being the first person the public encounters when they enter the SO; giving the public accurate and current information, even though it may not be what they wanted to hear, and continuing to smile throughout the experience; assisting in planning for conservation education programs and development of displays for public events. This summer I helped inaugurate the Flathead Forest's "Tracks Across the Flathead" program (involves providing interpretation aboard AMTRAK'S "Empire Builder" from East Glacier to Whitefish) by acting as the Forest Service interpreter through that corridor that separates Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Previous Life: 8 1/2 years at Flathead Industries in Kalispell; 4 years as director of Handicapped Services on The Big Mountain in Whitefish; worked as a carpenter in Colorado and New York.

Favorite Place in the World: Purgatory area near Durango, Colorado, and Montauk Point, Long Island.

People I Wish I Had Met: My grandfather and grandmother on my fathers side of the family, Casey Stengal, Abraham Lincoln (born on the same day), Amelia Earhart.

Hobbies: Downhill skiing, playing the guitars, coaching Pee Wee baseball in Kalispell, building and riding dirt bikes, doing volunteer work with DREAM'S Disabled Ski Program on the Big Mountain (DREAM is an acronym for Disabled Recreational Environmental Access Movement), collecting pictures of the great airplanes of the world.

Fantasy Job: Money tester, professional ski racer or stock car driver.

July 16, Savenac BE THERE

*by Ellen Vollmer, District Ranger
Superior Ranger District, Lolo National Forest*

Last summer, the Superior Ranger District celebrated the Centennial of the Forest Service with activities that included a reunion at Savenac Nursery. It proved so successful that there was a request that the district plan a repeat performance.

We heeded your request and now we're putting out the call. Join us this July to see how Savenac looks now, renew old friendships, and see what the future may hold in store for this fine administrative site.

Mark July 16 on your calendars. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. Bring your favorite potluck dish and we'll have a picnic on the oval, tell some stories, and tour the site. The whole day will be informal. Suppose you live in Oregon, Washington, or Tennessee, and would like to come, but say "It's a long trip," or "Gosh, what would I bring to the potluck?" Well, we'd like to say, "Forget the excuses, and come back to Savenac!" Each of you is very important to this reunion!

Give us a call or write to : Ellen Vollmer, District Ranger; Carole Johnson or Patrick Corts, for more information. Superior Ranger District, 209 W. Riverside, Superior, MT 59872, telephone: (406) 822-4233.

Wildlife Watchers to Meet



Are you a wildlife watcher? Almost every person in America will answer yes, whether it's stopping to watch a squirrel outside the window or following the flight of a golden eagle across the sky.

The National Watchable Wildlife Conference, to be held September 10-12 in Missoula, brings together leaders in conservation, natural resource agencies and communities from across the country to forge a common vision based on the growing demand for wildlife viewing opportunities.

Featured are more than 50 speakers and many concurrent sessions designed to provide the inspiration and tools necessary to create watchable wildlife programs across the country that are effective, visionary and sensitive to the needs of wildlife.

Sponsors of the conference include: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Travel Montana; Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Department of Defense; Defenders of Wildlife; International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; and Falcon Press of Helena.

For more information, contact: National Watchable Wildlife Conference, P. O. Box 497, Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819-0497; telephone (719) 475-0469. At the R-I Regional Office, contact Cindy Swanson (406) 329-3424.

Kootenai Awards Scholarships

by Jeanne Spooner, Public Affairs Specialist
Kootenai National Forest

A total of \$4,800 was donated by Kootenai National Forest employees for college scholarships to graduating seniors of Lincoln County. It was the eighth consecutive year for the scholarship program which began in 1984 with the award of one \$500 scholarship.

Employees of the Libby and Fisher River Ranger Districts, East Zone Engineering and the Supervisor's Office presented \$2,000, amounting to four \$500 dollar scholarships to students of the Libby '92 graduating class.

Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts combined their efforts, donating \$2,200 in scholarships to graduating seniors. These funds were available as a product of a fund-raising auction earlier this spring.

The Three Rivers Ranger District and West Zone Engineering presented scholarships amounting to \$300 each to two Troy seniors.

All students who have a minimum 2.50 overall grade point average and intend to continue their education in a post-high school institution are eligible to apply. Kootenai National Forest employee committees make the final determination on the awards based on the applicant's scholastic achievement and performance in student activities, athletics, and performing arts.

High Marks for Danish Volunteer

by Joe Barcomb, Civil Engineer
Kootenai National Forest



Helene Christensen

The Kootenai National Forest found a valued volunteer with Helene Alroe Christensen, a high school student from Denmark. From September 1991 to June 1992, she donated over 40 hours per week to the Forest's Engineering and Watershed division.

The Forest assigned Christensen to a number of differing tasks to broaden her experience, including work with land line survey crews, on fire assignments, sign inventory, transportation planning, geographic information systems, and water and sediment yield modeling. If her volunteer work had been done by a paid employee, it would have cost the government nearly \$20,000.

Christensen's positive attitude and willingness and ability to comprehend new assignments made her a much sought-after volunteer. With every assignment, her friendliness and cheerfulness were apparent and appreciated by all those who worked with her.

Christensen decided to work with the Forest Service after graduating from high school to gain experience in her chosen field of engineering. Her last day with the Kootenai was June 1, 1992. June 2 she flew back to Denmark to begin her university studies.

Helene is a credit to herself, her family, Denmark, and to the Kootenai National Forest. We have great hope for the future generation if the world is in the hands of people like Helene.

Good Example Set by Logging Team

by Sandra Gubel, Volunteer
Elk City Ranger District
Nez Perce National Forest

Loggers and the Forest Service can, indeed, function as a "management team." The Elk City, Idaho logging duo of Fred and son Doug Howe, is such an example.

The Howes, who own and operate H & H Logging, were presented with a framed certificate of appreciation May 8 by the Elk City Ranger District for their work to protect future timber and other resources in the woods. The father-son enterprise was commended for efforts to market smaller-than-



L to R - Timber sale administrator Russ Newman, Fred Howe, Doug Howe, Elk City District Ranger Jim Wiebush

mill sized timber products from the local forests they've logged. They were lauded for the extra time and expense they take to protect wildlife habitat and other forest resources.

The Howes' efforts "contribute significantly towards a spirit of cooperation, and gain the respect of Forest Service personnel and forest users," said Elk City District Ranger Jim Wiebush. They have been "leaders fostering changes in forest protection—they're where we're headed," said Wiebush.

Fred Howe has been logging on the Elk City and adjacent Red River Ranger Districts for 32 years. He has seen which logging practices work and which don't. He has seen many of the stands he's logged grow back to full-sized forests again.

Howe, who is in the process of "semi-retiring," said he values the Forest Service honor because it shows his work has been appreciated.



Forest Service Invests in Children

Fisher River Ranger District

by Jeanne Spooner, Public Affairs Specialist
Kootenai National Forest

May 8 through May 15 was a busy time for Jerry Vannice, who has worked seasonally for the Fisher River Ranger District in the Kootenai National Forest for many summers. Vannice has a special interest in outdoor education which he applies to his work with the agency.

After becoming familiar with his district, he knew he could get students to unique spots where they would have access to different environments and resources needed for project work. With the enthusiastic support of the Forest Service and the Montana Department of State Lands, Vannice worked out the logistics and the education project became an annual affair.

This year's class included 11 students enrolled in advance science courses at Grass Range High School in eastern Montana. After their arrival at Libby, they were soon transported to Fisher River and Lake Koocanusa areas to work on preselected science projects. Daily trips taken to accumulate needed information approached 100 miles in length.

Areas of study include physics, chemistry, biology, earth science and ecology. Each project requires laboratory work and has a core of questions that must be answered based upon the data or specimens collected. The students take their project work seriously and it was not unusual for them to work on their projects past 11:00 p.m. on any given night. This speaks to the dedication the students have for the trip and its purpose.

All money needed for the trip is earned by the kids. The personnel at Canoe Gulch Ranger Station allow the students to utilize the dorm facilities at no cost which provides them a place to sleep, fix meals, to work and complete field projects. The Department of State Lands also offers the students access to their bunkhouse facilities and personnel at both stations go out of their way to help these kids feel at home.

Because of the continuing support for outdoor educational

activity by the Forest Service and Montana State Lands, Jerry foresees a continuing opportunity in the coming years for future juniors and seniors of Grass Range to utilize and experience a unique science program in a beautiful and interesting part of Montana.

Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District

by John Hamilton, Forestry Technician
Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District
Lolo National Forest

"How many people are living on earth?" The question was posed by Tim Julander, with the Soil Conservation Service, to a range management class of 43 sixth graders at the Forest Service's Bend Work Center, located 26 miles north of Plains. "There are over 5 billion people right now," Julander replied. "More people are alive now than have ever died." With that sobering thought, the class moved on to a discussion of the earth's resources and the need for conservation.

Other instructors at the center included staff from the Forest Service; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and the MSU County Extension Service. They joined teachers and pupils from the Thompson Falls school district for a two-day outdoor school, held May 19-20.

Informal sessions on wildlife management, tree identification and measuring, fire ecology, soils, and range management were held in the woods and grasslands surrounding the center. Emphasis was on hands-on learning and class participation.

Students learned things like how many grazing animals a given grassland can be expected to support, what kind of food and cover wildlife need to survive, how trees grow and forests evolve, and when fires are actually good for forest ecosystems.

The students and chaperones enjoyed the camp-out atmosphere and the everyone-chips-in lifestyle at Bend. Originally a brainstorm of Plains district silviculturist Dave Atkins, the school has become a welcome addition to the curriculum of Sanders County schools.



Jerry Vannice and students
studying aquatic life



Instructors Dave Petteys and Kristy Dieterich
show correct use of cross-cut saw



New Discoveries on Uses of of Yew Tree

*by Steve Blair, Wildlife Biologist
Menn Pollworth, Information Assistant
Nez Perce National Forest*

In the past, the Pacific yew tree was considered a "weed" tree, thought to have little or no significant commercial value. In the Nez Perce National Forest, they grow beneath grand fir and Western red cedar stands. Recognizing the role of grand fir/Pacific yew community of trees to moose in winter, the Nez Perce Forest Plan provided management for these areas.

Evolving and adapting to a long life, a yew plant contains complex and poisonous compounds called taxines which help protect it against attacks from insects and browsing animals. Taxol, a new and promising cancer-fighting drug is one of these substances. Its demand for clinical testing dictates the harvest of yew wood from National Forest lands.

This year, forest managers plan to harvest half the yew trees from approximately 850 acres of stands. Though the planned harvest is less than 1.5% of the known yew acreage in the Nez Perce, managers are concerned about the future implications that the demand of yew could have on moose habitats, yew conservation and plant diversity in general. Elements of an ethical dilemma are expected until all available information is gathered and analyzed. Evaluation of current information has revealed some surprising facts.

Moose have adapted to yew toxicity and consume the browse routinely. A mystery until now, moose would even strip yew bark to eat in some areas of the forest, although studies show that yew bark has low nutritional value. Recently researchers in Alaska discovered that wintering cow moose are forced to peel and eat bark where forage supplies are low. In early spring, when their calves' movements are restricted, cow moose will not relocate in order to remain with their calves. Thus bark-peeling by moose is considered an indicator of inadequate browse availability. Fortunately when yew is cut, it continues to grow back from the stump, unlike other conifers, to provide winter browse for the moose.

With the new studies, Nez Perce National Forest managers can better plan for the survival and proper harvesting of Pacific yew trees to meet the requirements of the moose for food, while contributing to man's need for taxol.

Bighorn Sheep Study Funded

*by Gary Foli, Wildlife Biologist
McKenzie Ranger District
Custer National Forest*



The product of cooperation of the last two years will hit the ground this summer in the North Dakota badlands on the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Several parties have come to agreement on a three-year study on California bighorn sheep within an oil and gas development area. The research project will be conducted by the University of North Dakota.

During the winter of 1990 an oil well was to be drilled next to a sheep lambing area. Due to inadequate information on the effects of oil and gas on sheep ranges, a partnership was formed between Cenex Oil, Meridian Oil, Forest Service, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department to initiate research.

Funds pooled for this endeavor will approach \$200,000. The most important aspect of the project has been the new network of communication between the partners. Curt Bates, Custer Forest Supervisor, stated, "without partners, endeavors like this just would not get accomplished due to the lack of funds."

The major study objectives will be to compare disturbed and undisturbed areas; behavioral responses of bighorn sheep to human activities, particularly those associated with oil and gas development; and foraging and nutritional ecology of the bighorn. Genetic diversity of the herd will be looked at using blood and tissue samples.

The answers to some of these questions should provide technical data to better understand how badland bighorns should be managed in the future.

Retiring State Forester Honored

The Forest Service paid honor to Gary Brown, state forester with the Montana Department of State Lands, in a ceremony June 11 in the Regional Forester's office. John Hughes, deputy regional forester, presented Brown with a certificate of appreciation for his exemplary service in implementing State & Private Forestry programs in Montana during his tenure as state forester. Brown retired from his position at the end of June. Don Artley was named as his successor.



Deputy Regional Foresters Chris Risbrudt (at left) and John Hughes flank Gary Brown



SES: An Holistic Approach to Land Management

*by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Specialist
Bitterroot National Forest and
SES Technical Committee*

In the spring of 1991, the Northern Region began looking at forest and grassland management in a new way. This new approach, Sustaining Ecological Systems (SES), has continued to grow and pick up followers along the way. In short, SES has taken on a national presence!

National support has come from Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson, who recently announced that the agency is committed to using an ecological approach in the future management of the National Forests and Grasslands.

Resource management specialists from other public agencies, educators and private industry representatives are joining Forest Service managers to help develop a way of applying SES principles to land management activities. The goal is to sustain healthy ecosystems that will be capable of producing an array of goods, services and values for generations that follow.

SES is the Region's approach toward a sound, ecological foundation for management. It focuses on the "sustainable" part of the Multiple Use Sustained-Yield Act and places greater emphasis on decisions that have a view to the future—promoting sustained production over the long run. SES is not a marked change in management thought or action. It has evolved within the Agency, along with ideas associated with ecosystems and their management.

Will SES promote change in Region One? SES will be a catalyst for change. It blends sound ecological principles with practical approaches to land management. Through ecological management, managers will be able to better respond to the changing values and needs of society. SES should increase our participation with the public and scientific communities and minimize impacts to our environment.

How is the SES effort organized in Region One? A steering committee—consisting of four regional directors, three forest supervisors and chaired by Deputy Regional Forester Chris Risbrudt—furnishes direction to the effort. In addition, there is a technical committee of about 20 people that conduct the daily work involved with SES and resource analysis. They represent all resource functional areas and research at the Regional level. Their primary task has been to develop an approved Action Plan for implementing this evolving approach to ecosystem management in Region One and guidelines that specifically address the basic concept of ecosystem management. They have defined analysis methods and responsibilities used by personnel in Supervisor's Offices and Ranger Districts throughout the Region.

The committee works closely with each Forest ecosystem management committee, made up of representatives from ecology, biology, fire, silviculture, hydrology, fisheries, range and—as the need arises—other resource areas. They also promote a closer working relationship with conservation organizations, resource agencies, professional societies and private

industry to encourage a cooperative management approach to ecosystem management.

The guidance provided by the technical committee is a framework for thinking about, and acting on, a philosophy of management that tells us sustaining the ecological systems of the Northern Rockies is of primary importance. As more is learned about the application of this philosophy, the committee will take the lead in sharing this new knowledge and refining implementation guidelines.

What has been accomplished to date?

- A Regional action plan has been developed that spans three years and has three major elements: awareness, application guidance and Region-wide analysis.

- A Primer, the "vision" statement for SES, has been prepared to establish a common understanding of SES principles and techniques. Several thousand copies have been distributed.

- The "Managing for Sustainable Ecosystems Workshop" was held in Missoula with over two hundred attending. Key speakers were Forest Service Deputy Chief Dave Unger and Regional Forester Dave Jolly.

- An Alliance for Natural Resource Research, Education and Management in the Northern Rocky Mountains has been formed with the Intermountain Research Station, and Universities in Idaho, Montana and Utah to increase coordination and cooperation on natural resource problems.

- Presentations to the Chief's Office, organizations such as the Society of American Foresters, the Ecological Society of America and other professional/scientific groups.

- An Interim Guidance document has been prepared by the technical committee that outlines a path for Forests, elaborating on Primer principles, suggesting roles for various units and describing analytical processes to build on.

How have Region One Forests been involved?

Forests throughout the Region have quickly adopted the SES principles. Many good examples of project planning and watershed level analyses using SES principles and techniques are being implemented at the Forest level. The goal is to provide a mix of commodity outputs and biological diversity, while utilizing sound resource management principles.

Where do we go from here? Ecological management, with a higher sensitivity to all of the environmental values on public land is the next logical step in achieving our mission of "caring for the land and serving people." This is an opportunity for professionals on the ground to work with the public in developing many of the details for practicing ecosystem management on each Forest.

The successful implementation of SES principles depends on everyone! SES is an evolutionary effort and we are all part of that evolution.



a note from Dave

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he time between January 15, my arrival in the Northern Region, and May 1, the completion of my commitment to you to visit all of the National Forests and Grasslands, has been busy to say the least. It has also been interesting, trying, uplifting, and tiring at times. But most of all it's been fun. It has given me the opportunity to meet

many of you, both staff and retirees, as well as a number of people who care about what we are doing with this country's National Forests.

Yes, we do have some really tough issues facing us that need solutions. Your high morale and enthusiasm for the job are a credit to all of us and should make the difficult times ahead easier.

Time and effort will need to be devoted to Forest Plan updating, timber sale program, oil and gas leasing, allotment management, and salmon listing, all of which will require our best in professional approach and teamwork. We want to effectively inform and involve the public early in the planning stage to identify concerns and resolve any areas of conflict. Being open and straight-forward during this process, while it can be frustrating at times, is essential to maintaining our credibility with the public.

Our retirees are interested in our activities and programs and many want to help. We should make an effort to keep them informed and involved in ways that they would enjoy.

Fluctuations in budget will require us to make some hard choices and to continually adjust our priorities. Changes in our programs and priorities will involve alteration of the size and kind of our workforce. During this period, professional and personal consideration of one another will be especially important.

Now that my introduction to the Region has been completed, I have begun looking toward the future. There are a number of areas I wish to concentrate on, so let me share those with you. I feel we need to look at organizational structure at all levels to review our skill needs and our efficiency requirements. It is important that we remain focused on our commitments to affirmative action and civil rights as we are doing this.

I need to get to know our people in the Regional Office better in order to help pull our Regional "team" together. In addition, I am considering holding a working session this fall with Forest staff officers to help us assess Regional priorities and develop a plan of action.

From the resource's standpoint, I need to spend more time with Forest Plan implementation strategies, target attainment, ecological management of forests, and NEPA quality control. This should keep me busy for at least the next 6-8 months. By then I will probably feel like a veteran Region 1 employee.

I want to conclude by saying that this transition period has been made much easier by the warm welcome you have extended Peggy and me. In making a move like this, you can't help but wonder what kind of reception you'll receive. We could not have expected more, for which we wish to express our deep thanks.

The public is very fortunate to have you managing their lands. You are extremely knowledgeable about your Forests and you are enthusiastic about your work, made obvious to me in your presentations. I commend you on your accomplishments and I look forward to the challenges we face together as a team. I am proud to be one of you.



Tips to Live by

We are into our heavy vehicle travel period. Unfortunately the Region has already had several serious vehicle accidents. For your safety, remember:

- Distractions kill. Never eat, drink, chase bees, etc. STOP THE VEHICLE and take care of the problem.

- Avoid driving when you are "stressed out." You must give your full attention to your driving duties.

- Familiarize yourself with your vehicle before starting your trip. When incidents occur, you must be able to react. You may not have time to search for the controls in an emergency.

Visitor Center Open to Public

In Issue 5 of the Northern Region News, the Ninemile Visitor Center was mistakenly omitted from the list of Forest Service Visitor Centers in the Northern Region. The Ninemile Visitor Center is open every day through September 7, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone (406) 626-5201.





Giving Our Rivers New Life

by Judy York, Information Assistant
Nez Perce National Forest

If you have ever been to the Red River area, you know it as a place where great open meadows and pasture are surrounded by rolling hills of pines and firs. A stream called Red River flows through those meadows, shallow and quiet. What you may not know is that this stream has not been a "healthy" stream for many decades.

"About 100 years ago, Red River was a meandering stream lined with willows and other woody plants," said Kim Clarkin, coordinator of the river restoration project. "It was a place rich with a diversity of fish and wildlife."



The Kelly Creek Flycasters help plant shrubs and pine along Red River

Clarkin said that when they began the project last year, Red River was almost barren, with little or no willow along its banks. Over the years, parts of the channel had been dredge-mined and straightened, and the surrounding meadows had been grazed and converted to hay production. In the 1960's, extensive road building and timber cutting in upland areas added silt to the stream.

As a result of all the activities and land changes over time, the streambank eroded more quickly, pools disappeared, and gravelled spawning areas silted over. Over several generations, Red River's lifeblood disappeared.

Last year, the Red River Ranger District began helping Red River to heal—but not without a lot of assistance from others. The list has been impressive. It starts with the support and involvement of Edith Mullins, owner of the Red River Ranch where the project is located. Funding came from Bonneville Power Association, Kelly Creek Flycasters, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Idaho National Guard hauled boulders and fill rock. Shearer Lumber Company's Elk City mill donated over 200 cubic yards of boulders and 15-20 dumptruck loads of logs to the project site. Potlatch Corporation grew seedlings from Red River trees to plant along the bank.

All these materials were used to re-create the type of features Red River used to have. Vertical eroding banks were sloped back and covered with sod. Banks on the outside of bends were reshaped and stabilized with logs, root wads and boulders. At the lower end of the project site, a pond was created out of an old dredge site to create a fish rearing and waterfowl area.

This year, the site is getting its finishing touches. In April, volunteers planted 4,000 willow sprigs along the stream. On May 16, the Kelly Creek Flycasters planted 300 shrubs and seedlings as well. On June 20th, volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation built 4,000 feet of fence along the stream to provide further protection for the healing streamside vegetation.

Had it not been for the dedication and hard work of the many individuals, businesses, and organizations, the Mullins project at Red River may have never happened. When the project is completed this summer, Red River will begin the process of regeneration. As the vegetation takes hold and the channels cut deeper, fish and wildlife will come back to a healthier river lined with lush vegetation—a river whose lifeblood has returned.



by Merrilee Thoresen, Volunteer
Lolo National Forest

Rock Creek, which flows into the Clark Fork River approximately twenty miles southeast of Missoula, is classified as a blue ribbon trout stream by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Rock Creek is the only stream designated as such where National Forest land comprises a majority of the watershed and streambanks.

Of particular importance to the Lolo and Deerlodge National Forests who manage over 80 percent of the creek drainage is the quality of its fisheries production. Rock Creek, until the early 70's was heavily stocked. However, heavy fishing pressure caused a decline in the fisheries production.

In 1979, the state reduced the creel limit, imposed size and tackle restrictions and designated a portion of the creek to catch and release fishing only. The fisheries recovered, naturally increasing fish production and bringing Rock Creek up to the standards of a blue ribbon trout stream. Now that the creek has achieved such status, the Forests are intent that it be properly maintained.

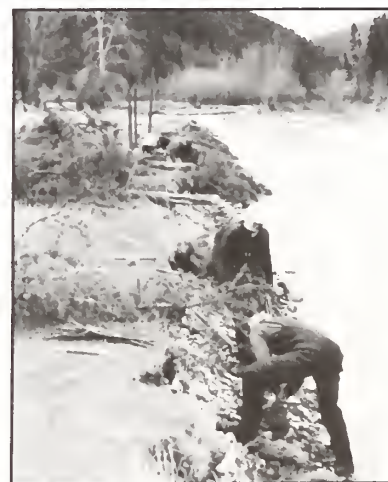
To assure that the quality of the water and the abundance of good trout habitat is maintained, management has focused on the enhancement of riparian vegetation and the reduction of streambank erosion and introduction of sediment into the streams.

The Puyear Ranch on Rock Creek is one area where this policy has been recently implemented. The land has traditionally been grazed, which has been detrimental to the health of the riparian vegetation and the strength of the streambank. An even greater factor in increasing streambank erosion was the diversion of the creek from its original course by the previous property owner.

Dick Kramer, Forest fisheries biologist, and Skip Rosquist, Forest hydrologist, addressed the problem on the Puyear Ranch section of Rock Creek. Prescribing methods to curb the flow from the affected bank and re-vegetate the area, they worked with volunteers, including members of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Using a technique developed in south central Alaska, re-vegetation of the riparian was done through the use of four foot lengths of dormant willow branches. The branches were bundled, placed in trenches along the stream bank and partially covered. To slow the current where the bundles were buried, cabled trees were put into place. The trees were secured to posts that were driven into the bank by cables that positioned them parallel to the bank with their ends pointing upstream.

Both the re-vegetation and the placement of the trees will aid in the reduction of the erosion of stabilizing the bank, deflecting the current along this particular bend and trapping sediment. These measures will also create fish habitat by providing shade and protective cover. While these efforts offer an immediate solution to the erosion problem, further studies will investigate the possibility of returning the creek to its original course.



Trout Unlimited volunteers bury bundles of willow shoots at high water line of Rock Creek

Personnel Update

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

REASSIGNMENTS

LEWIS, JO ANN, Property Clerk, SO, to Accounting Technician, Custer NF

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BIGLER, BOB, forest planner, SO, belt buckle award
BROWN, GARY, forestry technician, West Fork RD, belt buckle award
JOYNER, CAL, district ranger, Stevensville RD,
to Interdisciplinary, R-3, State & Private Forestry
MENA EVANS, RAMONA, support services supervisor, West
Fork RD, cash award and belt buckle award

TRANSFERS

COLE, STEPHEN, information assistant, R-9, Hiawatha NF, to
social services assistant, Trapper Creek CCC

NEW EMPLOYEES

MAJORS, MARSHA, social services assistant, Trapper Creek CCC
McCORMACK, ANNEMARIE, community health nurse,
Trapper Creek CCC
SMITH, PEGGY, culinary arts training instructor, Trapper Creek CCC

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

HAYS, MICHAEL, Special Act, Palouse RD
HAYS, MONTY, Special Act, Palouse RD
HINDS, LINDA, budget/accounting analyst, promotion, SO
KEATING, LINNEA, archaeology technician, promotion, SO

REASSIGNMENTS

STEINER, RANDY, personnel clerk, SO

NEW EMPLOYEES

SHUCFT, CAROLE, civilian payroll clerk (typing) Powell Ranger Station

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANKRUM, LORI K., promotion, resource assistant, SO
BURGER, GUADALUPE, promotion, range conservationist, Medora RD
CORDELL, TAMMY L., promotion, resource clerk, Sioux RD to
accounting technician, Black Hills NF, SO
DILULO, BLASE A., employee suggestion cash award,
forestry technician, Beartooth RD
GOODWIN, JAMES F., promotion, range technician, Ashland RD
GRINDE, CYNTHIA, promotion, applications clerk to support
services supervisor, Medora RD
MAC IVOR, JOHN A., promotion, District Ranger, Ashland RD,
to Apache Sitgreaves NF, Chevelon RD
THOMAS, MARCIA A., promotion, administrative officer,
SO, to, WO, Geometronics Center, Salt Lake City, Utah
TOMAC, JEFFREY, promotion, student trainee,
(range conservationist), Grand River RD

VOLESKY, STEVEN A., promotion, civil engineer, SO

WETTSTAED, JAMES, promotion, archeologist, Ashland RD to
Mark Twain NF, Prostosi/Fredricktown RD

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

COLE, VICKY, reassignment, civil engineering technician, SO,
to forestry technician
WIEGAND, ROBERT, reassignment, forester, SO, to Medora RD

NEW EMPLOYEES

ANDERSON, BABETE R. career-conditional appointment,
information receptionist, Beartooth RD
CLARK, REGINA, accepted appointment-conditional, student
trainee (range conservationist), McKenzie RD
WOLKEN, PAIGE M., accepted appointment-conditional,
student trainee (botanist), Sheyenne RD

RESIGNATIONS

HETLAND, JOHN R., laborer, Beartooth RD, resignation

DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CULLEN, JACK, Special Act, Butte RD
DORVALL, RENE, Special Act, Butte RD
EVANS, PATRICE, computer assistant, SO
HARRIS, ROBERT, Special Act, Anaconda CCC
HOAR, JAN, Special Act, Butte RD
KLEMENT, FRANK, supervisory civil engineer, SO
MURRAY, LEE, forester, Philipsburg RD
PATTERSON, HELEN, office automation clerk, SO
POST, TRISTRAM, range conservationist, Butte RD
RUSSELL, FRANK, forestry technician, Jefferson RD

REASSIGNMENTS

BILLETER, TERESA, support services specialist, SO to Butte RD
KELLEY, IRENE, accountant, SO, to budget & accounting analyst
SCOTT, GLENDA, forester, Lincoln RD to Deerlodge NF, Philipsburg RD

NEW EMPLOYEES

RUSINSKI, JEWEL, career conditional appointment, nurse, Ananconda CCC

RESIGNATIONS

OLD ELK, NETA, student trainee (computer science), SO

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ALLISON, RITA, resource clerk, cash award, Glacier View RD
MCVEIGH, MARGE, administrative officer, promotion,
North Fork John Day RD, Umatilla NF
SHARP, JIM, forestry technician, promotion, SO

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

DOCHERTY, RACHAEL, IPNF, to lead forestry technician,
Glacier View RD
MCVEIGH, MIKE, forestry technician, to North Fork
John Day RD, Umatilla NF
RICHARDSON, RODD, RO/WL&F, to deputy forest supervisor

NEW EMPLOYEES

BANKS, CHRIS, accepted conditional appointment, student trainee,
(Contracting)

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

CURRIE, ROBERT, Forester, Lincoln RD to Carson NF, El Rito RD

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

AGAR, GEORGE, civil engineer, cash award, Sandpoint RD
BUCKHAM, Marilyn, cash award, SO
BRIGGS, BRENT, forestry technician, St. Maries RD.
CROSS, PAUL, cash award, SO

Personnel Update

EVEREST, LOREN, cash award, SO
OHMSTEDE, ROBERT, cash award, SO
QUALLS, LELANA, procurement assistant, SO
RILEY, DENNIS, biological science technician, Priest Lake RD
RUMELHART, BETTY, accounting technician, SO
SCHMIDT, JAIME, temporary, supervisory forester, Avery RD
STEPHENSON, WENDY, temporary, purchasing agent, SO
WILLIAMS, CARY, Lolo NF to forestry technician, Priest Lake RD
WILSON, WENDY, support services supervisor, Avery RD

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

BOGGS, ANDREW, from forestry technician (sale administration) to forestry technician (recreation), Fernan RD

NEW EMPLOYEES

EIMERS, STEPHANIE, coop-ed, wildlife biologist, St. Maries RD
NACCARATO, ROBERTA, office automation clerk, Priest Lake RD

RESIGNATIONS

JACOBSON, HEIDI, civilian pay clerk, Priest Lake RD
ROWLAND, CARL, SCSEP employee, Fernan RD
WAHL, PAMELA, biological aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

HILL, KATRINA, resource technician, Fortine RD
HOLIFIELD, JENNIFER, wildlife biologist, SO
JOHNSON, LYNN, wildlife biologist, Fortine RD
OLSEN, DEBORAH, civil engineer, West Zone Engineers
PENDERGRASS, MIKE, telecommunication specialist, SO
SLAVEN, SHAUNA, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

LAMBRECHT, ROBERT, forester, Cabinet RD
NORBERG, NANCY, resource specialist, from Lolo NF to Kootenai SO
WICKA, LETA, information receptionist, to procurement clerk, SO

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

PROMOTIONS

FRIDGE, MARY, forestry technician, Judith RD to Musselshell RD
WIDDICOMBE, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Musselshell RD

NEW EMPLOYEES

BLUEEARTH, SHIRLEY, TAPER appointment, mail/file clerk, SO
STROUD, ROXANNA, career-conditional appointment, resource clerk, Musselshell RD

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. The following are guidelines for submitting articles:

-Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in agency activities and projects.

-Articles must be concise and timely. All material is subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.

-Photos should be black and white, glossy prints, if possible.

Send articles to G.Weisgerber:R01A (Data General), or Gloria Weisgerber, Editor, Northern Region News, USDA Forest Service - PAO, P. O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Retirement News

Charles R. Howard retired May 29 after 35 years with the Forest Service. His first position with the agency was as a forester in timber salvage with the Kaniksu National Forest in Sandpoint, Idaho. Later positions include: fire control officer, Noxon Ranger District; forester, Spotted Bear Ranger District, Flathead National Forest; forester, Libby District, Kootenai National Forest. As for the future, Charlie says, "My daughter Paige graduated from MSU on May 16; my son Michael graduated from high school May 28; and I graduated from the workforce May 29. I'm planning to enjoy whatever the future holds!"

Retirement Listings

Helen M. Anderson, Custer NF, SO, accounting technician

Bob Bigler, Bitterroot NF, SO, forest planner

Gerald Larson, St. Maries RD, IPNF, forestry technician

Gerald Peterson, Fernan RD, IPNF, forestry technician

James Raftrey, IPNF, SO, purchasing agent

In Memoriam

Richard D. Brown, 50, of St. Ignatius, died June 5 at St. Patrick Hospital of head injuries sustained in a fall from a horse. Born in Deer Lodge, Brown worked for the Forest Service before entering the U. S. Army in 1964. Upon his discharge in 1966, he again worked for a period with the Forest Service.

Frederick S. Hasenoehrl, born in 1936 in Washington, D. C., died June 15 of congenital heart failure in Edmonds, Washington. He began his career with the Forest Service at the Troy Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, where he worked from 1961-64. He then transferred to the West Fork Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, until his transfer in 1968 to the Philipsburg Ranger District, Deerlodge National Forest, where he worked as a supervisory forester in Timber Management. In 1971, he transferred to the Internal Revenue Service.

Katheryn S. Onslow, employee development assistant with the R-I Personnel division in Missoula, died June 14 at St. Patrick Hospital. She was 71.

Born in Canton, Montana, Onslow began her career with the Forest Service at the Regional Office, where she continued to work for the following 36 years. She worked for the Engineering division from 1964-81 after which she transferred to the Personnel division. She received many awards for her dedication and service, including two awards from the Regional Forester in 1991 for her contribution to the awards and training program.

Eric P. White, 96, of Helena, died May 18 at the Helena Nursing Home. Born in 1896 in Pennsylvania, White began work with the Forest Service in Billings, Montana, following military service in World War I. He was employed as a ranger near Yellowstone Park for three years before moving to Gallatin Canyon, where he worked as a ranger at the Cinnamon Ranger Station. In 1946, he moved to Helena, where he served as a ranger for the Helena National Forest until his retirement in 1957.

Back Country Horsemen Aid Clearwater

by Mel Fowlkes,
Resource Technician
Lochsa Ranger District
Clearwater National Forest



District staff and Back County Horsemen in front of newly constructed bridge across Sherman Creek

On May 16, the Forest Service began construction of a 47-foot bridge across Sherman Creek in the Clearwater National Forest. What made the project possible were 32 members of North Central Idaho Back Country Horsemen who arrived on the scene to lend a hand.

The new bridge will provide a safe crossing joining Sherman Creek Trail and the Lochsa River National Recreation Trail. Construction of the bridge completes the 16-mile Lochsa River Trail which supplies varied hiking and riding opportunities in the Lochsa River Canyon.

The Clearwater was also aided by 20 members of the Twin Rivers Back Country Horsemen, who cleared approximately 2 1/2 miles of the Fish Butte Trail on Memorial Day weekend.

These projects were part of the National Forest Challenge Cost-Share program in which 50 percent or more of the cost is provided by volunteers. District Ranger Jon Bledsoe stated many undertakings in the district have been completed with volunteer help that otherwise could not have been funded.

With a Little Help From Friends

Suzanne Lay, NEPA Coordinator
Palouse Ranger District
Clearwater National Forest

Folks interested in having a little fun, losing a little weight, and doing something good for the environment got together on the Palouse District to clean out trails the weekend of May 30-31.

Twenty-nine people full of vim and vigor put in about 128 volunteer hours Saturday. Sunday four of us diehards went at it again for about 17 hours. All in all, over 145 hours of volunteer time went into reconstructing eight miles of trails.

Many thanks go to the local veterinarian, Sarah Metcalf, for her enthusiasm in getting the project going. Sarah, with some help from district people, gathered horse people, mountain bike people, motorcycle people, hike people, hunters, and just regular old people for a couple of days of sweat and fun.

Others who helped make the project a success include the Potlatch Corporation who permitted our clearing trails through their land and gave us access to some of their closure areas to route equipment. The Panhandle Off-road Vehicle Club also deserve thanks for their long-term commitment to keeping the trails open on the Palouse District.

The Northern Region News

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